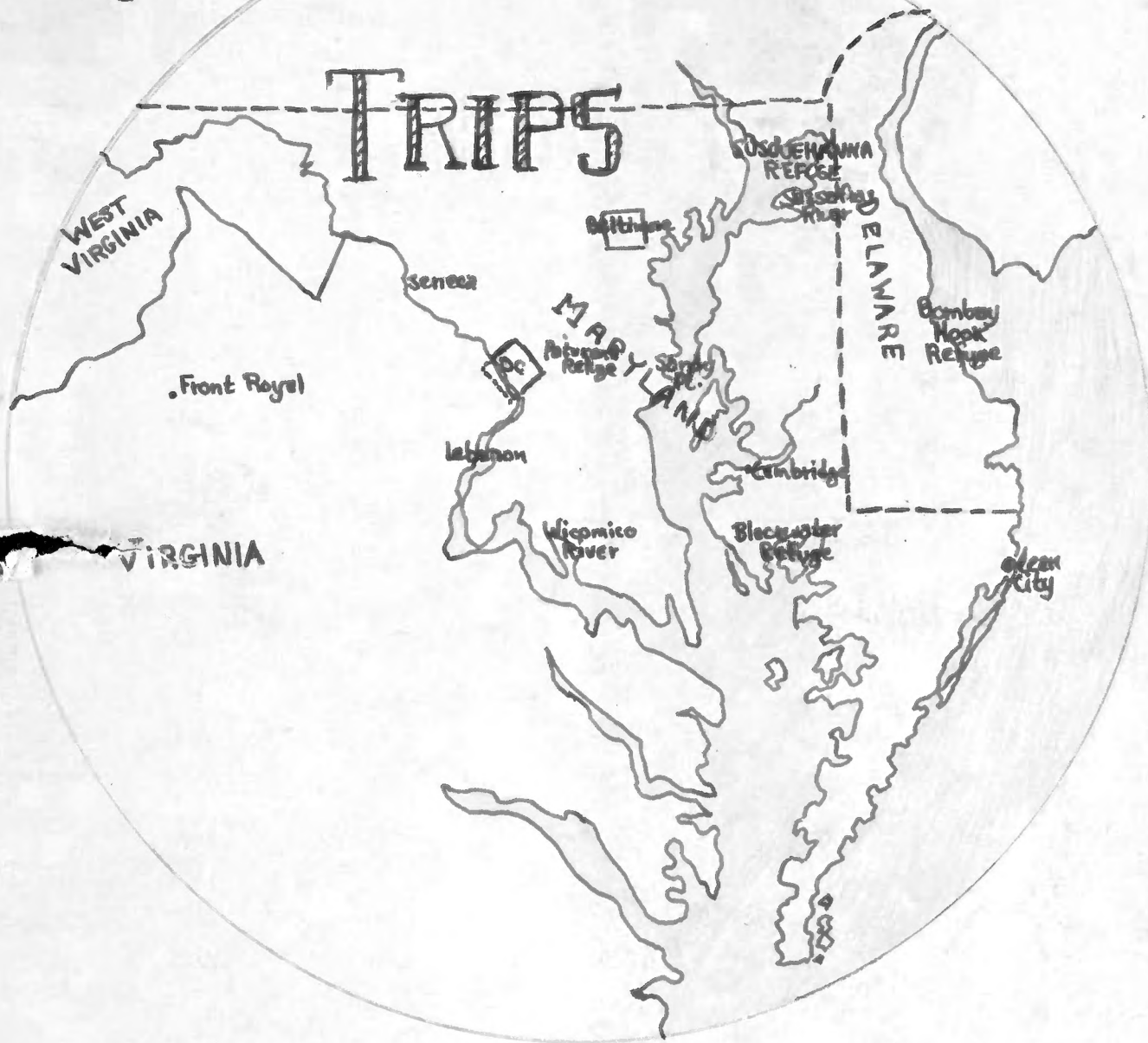


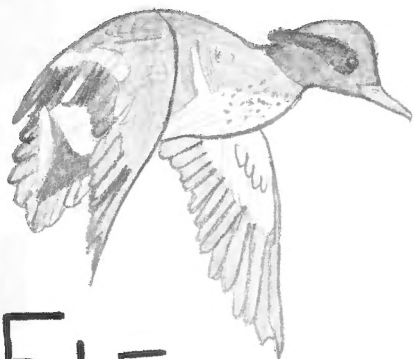
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FIELD

TRIPS





FIELD TRIPS
1950

FIELD TRIPS-1950

I. POTOMAC RIVER ESTUARY from MORGANTOWN TO COBB ISLAND; WICOMICO RIVER

January 1, 1950 - (66 species)

WAITING for the first light of the second half of the century near Pope's Creek, we heard a killdeer call from the marshy flats a few minutes before daylight, making that the first species of the New Year. A few Crows passed overhead when dawn began to break and a Song Sparrow called from the roadside. The lapping of the waves on the pebbly shore were the only signs of the broad expanse of water that was near, but the river gradually widened as the daylight increased, until finally, when the southeast was rosy-red, we could see across it. A pair of American Golden-eyes were feeding off-shore, along with a group of Horned Grebes. A sizeable collection of ducks was on the water down towards Chapel Point, but they were too far away to be identified with certainty. The Potomac is bordered by a precipitous cliff a few acres downstream from Pope's Creek, and from a sweeping view of both the river and marshy creek was afforded. An immature Bald Eagle flew inland, following the creek and a Pileated Woodpecker lumbered across the opening caused by the marshy area. The telescope allowed good close-ups of a dozen Red-breasted Mergansers and four little Ruddy Ducks, all swimming just out from the overhanging cliff. The scope also revealed two Whistling Swans, tipping in the shallows of the opposite shore.

Leaving the river for a while, we visited long-leaf and loblolly pine woods, where many Titmice, chickadees, Kinglets and a Hermit Thrush were recorded. A Hairy Woodpecker paused from his work on a pine-stub to call "pseer" and then bounded away out of sight. Cedar Waxwings were noted, too, a flock of about thirty resting in an oak sapling.

Just below the hulking bridge near Morgantown, a fair-sized flotilla of ducks were busy not far off shore and around the duck-blinds. Golden-eyes were the first to move out, leaving with a loud splashing of water and whistling of wings. The Canvasbacks and Scaups, however, preferred to swim away, provided they weren't approached too close. The scope permitted fine looks at the Canvasbacks, as they relaxed after gaining a good distance and also allowed close-up studies of the Scaup, especially a flock that came in to join those already present.

But these companies of waterfowl gave little hint of the enormous rafts present a mile or two downstream. They were amassed in the river just off Picowaren Creek like a huge floating island, and smaller groups were scattered all over the river. Gadwalls were milling about, flying here and swimming there. The scope picked up the white lower wing speculum and

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the contrasting white belly. Ruddy Ducks, Baldpates, Coots, several Redheads, Scaup and Canvasback were identifiable, any several thousand more were too far out. Two males convoyed one female Bufflehead closer to shore, away from the main body, but several Golden-eyes and two Horned Grebes were present near them.

The pine slashings inland produce a corey of duail and Red-tailed Hawks were particularly common, seven being noticed within two miles. One especially was accomodating, perching on a telephone pole and regarding us with more interest than we did it. A Migrant shrike was well observed atop a pole that held together a corn-shock.

Where Cuckold Creek jabbed inland from the river, we found a fair-sized gathering of Pied-billed Grebes. Eleven of them were actively engaged along the marshy shores, swimming and diving amongst a flock of forty Scaup Ducks and a flotilla of one-hundred twenty sleeping Ruddy Ducks. An adult eagle flew over and one immature of the same species crossed the water near the waterfowl, but not disturbing them in the least.

Swan Neck formed the opposite shore of Cuckold Creek and it was a unique and beautiful place. Pines - long-leaf and yellow - and a few scattered oaks formed the woodland that covered it. No house is on the entire neck of land, but the primitive aspect is spoiled somewhat by logging operations that have left stumps and trunks strewn irregularly over the area. But what a haven for birds! Robins called to each other, (to us like lost friends) as they rested atop an oak. Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Winter Wrens, Chickadees and Kinglets fed along the path leading to the water. Pushing back the holly boughs along the river's edge was like opening the gates to paradise! The lovely azure water sparkled in the mid-day sun and Waterfowl peopled the broad shining expanse like ants in a cupboard. Swans were spread out in large semi-circle, with Gadwalls, sporting their rich chestnuts and browns, and Baldpates, Golden-eyes, Ruddies, Canvasback and Scaup were mixed in with the big white birds.

Cobb Island, at the confluence of ^{the} Wicomico and Potomac Rivers, was a beautiful hunk of real estate, and thousands of waterfowl were spread all around it, particularly on the Potomac side.

Allen's Fresh, at the headwaters of the Wicomico, produced a few Marsh Hawks and one sharp-shinned, cruising over the water and marshes.

Dusk settled at Luckton's Point on the Wicomico, the twilight gradually hiding the rafts of ducks and geese feeding and calling softly on the opposite shore.

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

2. HEADWATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY; ELK, BOHEMIA AND SASSAFRAS RIVERS

January 2, 1950 (50 species)



SUNSET on the Sassafra! The setting sun reflected on the orange-red waters, a river of gold; the soft barking of Swans tipping in the shallows or floating in on snowy pinions; the tumultuous honking of Canada Geese, settling together in a favorite feeding ground; bronze-headed Canvasbacks floating among smaller Scaups and Ring-necks,

heads held high, with the lofty mien that befits the king of waterfowl; Mallards, Baldpates and Black Ducks, Mergansers, Pintails and Golden-eyes, silhouetted against the salmon-pink waters; and Blackbirds, thousands and thousands of them, crossing high above the river like wisps of smoke. Where else could it be, but on the Sassafra?

Sunset on the Sassafra! A glorious crown for a King of days! Down came with intermittent rain and sunshine at Havre de Grace on the western shore of the Chesapeake. Several hundred swans, half as many Canvasbacks, a hundred or so Pintails, with a sprinkling of Golden-eyes were dining on the regal carpet of the Susquehanna Flats. At Perry Point, where the Susquehanna enters the bay, thousands of geese, ducks and swans were congregated far out, but groups of Pintails and Canvasbacks passed directly overhead, perhaps just arriving on the coveted waters of the bay after a night's journey. Carpenter's Point brought us closer to Canvasbacks and Baldpates, more Swans, and a company of Horned Grebes, while Charlestown Beach added a Prairie Horned Lark. Moving around the headwaters of the bay, we noted Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks along the roadside, and at Red Point, on the Northeast River, Baldpates and Horned Grebes were recorded. A raft of Canvasback, several miles long, was seen off Red Point, that must have contained between ten and fifteen thousand individuals.

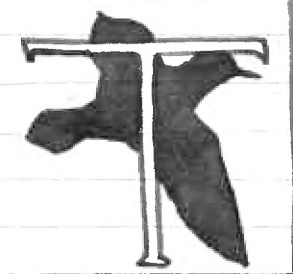
Sunset on the Sassafra! The water was particularly calm and placid in the whole upper bay region, but nowhere as serene as on the Sassafra. The Elk and Bohemia Rivers are beautiful streams in their own right, but they are barren wastes compared with The River. A few American Mergansers were present on the Elk and the Bohemia's shores had a nice collection of Ring-billed Gulls, but the Sassafra is an Anatine heaven. Grove Neck, the peninsula between the Sassafra and Bohemia, was fertile territory, too, yielding several nice Red-tails, Marsh Hawks, a pair of doves and a Redheaded Woodpecker. Crystal Beach added a Pied-billed Grebe.

Sunset on the Sassafra! If the close of every day could be as glorious!

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

3. POTOMAC RIVER FROM CHAPEL POINT TO COBB ISLAND, MARYLAND.

January 7, 1950-(44 species)



THE wind-lashed waters of the lower Potomac that produced waterfowl in good numbers and variety and the day's end at Cobb Island, that produced a sunset comparable to a genuine Sassafras sundown - this time on the Potomac - helped make the second trip within a week to this area both interesting and inspiring.

The white-caps rolled and the waves surged and ranted on the shores of Port Tobacco cove, but several little Ruddy Ducks complacently dipped and swerved on the roller-coaster surf. A group of Pied-billed Grebes and a lone Horned huddled together behind a blind, but Red-breasted and American Mergansers braved the open waters, even though they were sometimes tossed into the air by the waves. Two flocks of Canada Geese flapped steadily upstream, merged, and settled into the deep-furrowed river. Black Ducks tipped and dabbled on the shores of a sheltered cove, and a flock of Scaup waded the water on the opposite shore. Two Bald Eagles enjoyed the brisk breeze, hovering and black-flapping, sliding down and pumping up.

The bluffs above Pope's Creek afforded views of Red-breasted, a few Buffleheads, a raft of about 220 Canvasbacks and a male old-squaw, skittering over the turmoil.

At Cedar Point, near Morgantown, Scaups, totaling at least a thousand individuals, were quite active, flying in close-knitted flocks. A pair of nice Golden-eyes was scoped just off the point and several hundred Canvasbacks were with the Scaup. A Bald Eagle was standing on a rock-pile in the middle of the river near the bridge. Pasquananza Pond yielded a Red-tailed Hawk and a Kingfisher.

Many hundreds of Canvasbacks and Scaup were out in the water off Piccowaxen Creek, and smaller group, of pond ducks, including Pintails and Baldpates, and Blacks, in company with a single Great Blue Heron were feeding off a strand of tide-exposed mud and vegetation. Coots clustered about a blind, and several Horned Grebes were present. Black Vultures soared in the blue above the farms and woods bordering the river.

A cloud of seven hundred Gadwalls rose at the mouth of Cuckold Creek and, after considerable aerial evolutions, dropped into the water by Bachelor's Hope Island. The telescope allowed close observations of this interesting species, in flight and at rest. Six Whistling Swans were present near them. Two adult eagles swung over Cuckold Creek, hovered above the marshy shores, and perched side by side on a bare stub.

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

Light - a soft, orange-pink glow - was fading when we reached Cobb Island. A long line of Baldpate was stretched up the Potomac shore, and more Pintails were feeding on a mudflat, in company with gulls and Baldpates. Gadwall and Scaup were farther out in the water. On the Wicomico side of the Island, some beautiful sun-bathed Red-breasted Mergansers were scoped, and a straggling line of old-squaws flew up the Wicomico. Perhaps the best species of the day was Double-Cr. Cormorant, noted among some Herring Gulls about a fish-trap. It perched on the netting and swam in the water. To the west, the dazzling, blinding golden sun dropped behind the distant tree-line, painting the water and the sky and the clouds with colors found only in sunsets and dawns.

off

4. WICOMICO CREEK, WICOMICO RIVER AND COBB ISLAND, MARYLAND

January 14, 1950 - (46 species)



HOUGH somewhat less than fifteen miles long, the Wicomico River is as fertile a stream for waterfowl and fish, and as rich in scenic beauty and interest as exists anywhere. A clear woodland spring, hidden in the quiet recesses of Zerkish Swamp is its origin, and it winds its way through the forest, bubbling

crystal clean over a pebbly bottom for a half mile or so. Little rivulets join it in the swampy bottomlands and soon it flows through grassy marshes at Allen's Fresh, where water backing up from the Potomac has widened it considerably. Little tidal guts and ponds litter the marsh grasses, and the Wicomico twists through the prairie-like marsh-fields, broadening suddenly where the yellowed cat-tails and wild rice give way to pine-covered cliffs and wooded shore-lines. Still wider it becomes, until it bends sharply at the confluence of the river and Choptico Run. Hatton Creek and Chopticon Creek join its waters where its blue broad breadth stretches shimmering in the sun. Finally, at Cobb Island, it meets the Potomac, and thence its long journey to the Atlantic.

Pintails and Baldpates were resting in the sheltered lee of Cobb Island this morning, waiting for the tide to expose their feeding flats, but many of them passed around the point at our approach. Horned Grebes were diving in the Wicomico and in Neale's Sound, and Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were coursing back and forth over the island. A sharp-shinned Hawk flew up from the marshy beach by the bridge and disappeared around the point. At Rock Point, a female Canvasback was feeding in close to shore and more Horned Grebes were swimming farther out. A half a dozen American Golden-eyes bobbed on the water in the center

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

of the river.

A Red-tailed Hawk flapped below some crows near Hatton Creek, and many Meadowlarks, Redwings and a few Sparrow Hawks were conspicuous roadside observations. Near Hatton Point, extensive Corn-fields yielded many Mourning Doves and Flickers, a nice male Marsh Hawk. Another Red-tail was surprised in a wood-lot beside the road.

The Wicomico at Hatton and Barber Points was peppered with water-fowl. 20 swans floated complacently off Hatten Point, resting peacefully, head tucked under wing, or swaying contentedly in the gentle rolling of the water. Ruddy Ducks' white cheeks were scattered as far as the eye could see, and rows and rafts of other species filled the water upstream. Arm's length views of Ruddys, Canvasbacks, Redheads and Gadwalls enjoyed through the scope at Barber Point. Stalking those birds that were close into shore permitted superbly excellent views of the Gadwall and Canvasbacks. The chestnut crown and black rump, along with the soft grey speckling of the male gadwall were seen at close-range, as they peddled about with conspicuous yellow legs. Others were flying by, exhibiting the white wing speculums. The Canvasbacks, with rich, glistening tan-brown heads and necks, coal-black chests and snow-white backs shining in the sun, were busy feeding. Some of the Canvasbacks had mud dripping from the bills and soiling the feathers up to the eye when they rose to the surface. A goodly sprinkling of blue-billed, tan-headed, grey-bodied Redheads was among them. Ruddys were everywhere. Pintails, Mallards, and Blacks, with a pair of Green-winged Teal, with a couple of male American Mergansers were riding the waves and flying up the river, or feeding in the smoother waters of the cove. A Pied-billed Grebe was present, too, along with several Bald Eagles.

A visit to Allen's Fresh wasn't too productive, but another spot farther down the river netted Cedar Waxwings and a Mallard, a female Marsh Hawk and Black Vultures, the latter species being exceptionally numerous today.

An earlier stop, before we reached the Wicomico at Cobb Island, at Cuckold Creek on the Potomac, resulted in several hundred Gadwall, a flock of a hundred or so Canvasbacks and a number of Baldpates. Several Bald Eagles, a Belted Kingfisher, slate-colored Juncos and Bluebirds were also noted here. A Golden-crowned Kinglet called from the pine-woods. The sun dropped behind some pure white clouds in the late afternoon, changing them to orange as it sunk beyond the distant tree-line.

FIELD TRIPS - 1950 - (continued)

5. SHEARER ESTATE, D.C. and ROACHES RUN SANCTUARY, VIRGINIA

January 21, 1950 - (23 species)

SHORT visits to the patch of woodland in Woodridge, D.C. and to Roaches Run Wildlife Sanctuary, Virginia, were quite fertile, considering the time afield and the area covered.

Shearer Estate's shrubby growths and groves hid a group of winter wanderers, including two pert little Chickadees; 2 Tufted Titmice; a noisy Downy Woodpecker and a happy, but lonesome, Goldfinch. A Sparrow Hawk was observed atop the White-Gravenor building at Georgetown University and a Hairy Woodpecker fed industriously near the structure.

At Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary, several hundred pintails and scattered Black Ducks and Mallards were tame enough to be approached closely. A Coot swam with them and Herring Gulls stood on a shale of ice in the center of the lagoon. At the National Airport, a Great Blue Heron was scoped and Killdeer scooted over the garbage-washed mud-flats. The setting sun lent a pinkish-orange cast to the clouds of late afternoon.

6. CHESAPEAKE BAY FROM SHADYSIDE TO THOMAS POINT, MARYLAND

January 28, 1950 - (45 species)



THE narrow peninsula that forms Thomas Point, where the broad expanse of South River enters the blue Chesapeake, may not be as fertile birding territory as the Susquehanna Flats or as lovely as the Sassafras River area, but the variety and number of both its waterfowl and land birds, coupled with the picturesque setting enable it to hold its own with any spot on the lower bay.

The inlet on the North side of the Point yielded a few Horned Grebes, four Scaup Ducks and a squadron of eighteen Buffleheads, but the close-in views that the scope afforded of the beautiful, strikingly plumaged "Butter-balls" more than atoned for the lack of variety. The males in the group were quite active, with much head-jerking and aerial maneuvering. No female birds seemed the object of their affections, but their mating instinct was doubtless responsible for this behavior.

The southern shore of the Point at South River and the perspective of the Bay revealed about a hundred more of the

FIELD TRIPS - 1950 - (continued)

sprightly little Buffleheads, but they were augmented by good numbers of several other species. A gathering of Baldpates whined their disapproval at our intrusion as they left, but half a hundred Whistling Swans were bothered no more than to trumpet a few alarm notes and move out farther. A pair of Black Ducks left the bank and American Golden-eyes were sprinkled about all portions of the water. Horned Grebes were present here also, along with omnipresent little Buffle-heads, and a flotilla of Golden-eyes bobbed well out in the Bay. Several flocks of flying ducks were silhouetted against the gray sky. A mile or so up-river from Thomas Point, where there is formed an inlet and several isolated ponds, a few dozen plump Ruddy Ducks were observed, in company with five Ring-necked Ducks. The group was approached closely and the scope permitted perfect studies of one streamlined, two-toned male Ring-neck. A bevy of Canvasbacks, far in the distance, were flying towards the Bay, and a Kingfisher rattled where a fresh stream entered the inlet. Killdeer skittered on the sandy flats, where Song Sparrows skulked in the marsh grass. A Herring Gull stood alone on a rocky island, watching others of its kind circle in the sky.

The land birding at Thomas Point was exceptionally good. Bluebirds - and their blue is bluest blue imaginable - were feeding on a small tree with red bunches of fruit, and a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers raised a ruckus amongst the lofty oaks. Flickers, White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, Towhees and Titmice were active and noisy. A Brown Thrasher, sustaining on the rich berry harvest of the Point, was a surprising addition, and an assorted bunch of different-plumaged Myrtle Warblers chipped at riverside. Two Black Vultures passed over, with hurried flopping, and a Red-tailed Hawk moved slowly towards the Chesapeake. Two Grackles were observed, along with a group of Red-wings and a Cowbird.

The first stop at the Bay was made at Shadyside, where some superb views of glistening-plumaged Golden-eyes were enjoyed, and Horned Grebes and Buffleheads were watched, along with some surf-riding Oldsquaws, which preferred the open bay to the quieter waters of West River. The area at Cedarhurst, Galesville and Shadyside was somewhat disappointing. It was not covered too well, but perhaps the settled areas are too extensive for the ducks.

Several Sparrow Hawks and a Shrike were among the more conspicuous road-side species.

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

7. NATIONAL ARBORETUM, D.C. -

February 4, 1950 (23 species)

A Song Sparrow's simple lay reflected a faint hope of spring and better times this morning, despite the brisk breeze that ruffled its feathers. How good it would be if we all could face the gales of life so dauntlessly, so hopefully!

Today's walk was confined within the grounds of the National Arboretum, but the return of Old Defiance made up for the lack of species. Crows were screaming and hollering just within the gate, where the old Eagle was perched low and near the street. It flapped off that perch and sailed to another a bit farther up the hill (with Crows in hot pursuit) at my approach. The nest site was not visited, for fear of disturbing the old birds too much, but this presence so close is a positive indication of their nesting. Some good views of the Eagle were enjoyed near the nest, and later by the river, where it was caught off guard.

Juncos and Field Sparrows were busy feeding in the brush by Heart Pond, which had a thin skim of ice, and a Downy Woodpecker's rattle came from the woods above the big pond.

An American Merganser passed, heading downstream, at the Anacostia and Herring Gulls soared in lazy circles over the dump. A ready comparison and excellent views of both the Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were afforded as the two birds flew low over the pistol range, after flushing almost simultaneously from the peninsula across the river.

A Brown Creeper's single note, revealed his presence with a band of chickadees and Titmice in the pine grove near Holly Spring.

8. WICOMICO RIVER from ALLEN'S FRESH to MILLS POINT, MARYLAND

February 11, 1950 - (64 Species)



EARLY spring in the Wicomico Valley! A land of shimmering blue waters, sprinkled with myriads of waterfowl! A fresh new land of green pines and plowed fields and waving marshes, where Blackbirds gurgles, Meadowlarks whistle and Sparrows trill. A land of blue skies, where Eagles play with the clouds and Gulls sail in circles. Early spring in the Wicomico Valley! - where every breath brings on adventure, and where the beauty of the earth leaves one gasping.

The cloudy dawn at Allen's Fresh brought little promise of the

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

of the day that was to follow. Two Marsh Hawks quartered over the prairie-like marshes, where Red-wings and Song Sparrows were singing. A troop of Chickadees, Titmice and Myrtle Warblers was active at the edge of Zakish Swamp. Sweet-voiced Bluebirds called from the farmlands and a Towhee called from a pine slashing. Near the Fresh, a Horned Lark burst forth its melodious refrain to the dreary sky and a Loggerhead Shrike surveyed the fields from a telephone wire.

Luckton's Point on the Wicomico produced thousands of ducks and clearing skies. Ruddy Ducks peppered the mirror-like expanse as far as the eye could see. A marshy promontory was thickly peopled with Baldpates, Redheads and Canvasbacks, with a good representation of Ring-necks and Scaups scattered among them. Many Widgeon were walking along the muddy marge or scrambling about the shore, but all the ducks were feeding spiritedly. American Golden-eyes whistled away when disturbed, but a group of Ruddy Ducks and Ring-necks remained close in, and were scoped magnificently, as they fed on the river-bottom harvest. American Mergansers were present in the group, too. An Eagle flapped low over the river, but bothered the ducks only a little, and a Great Blue passed overhead on lumbering pinions. Black Vultures flapped with quickened wing-beat over the point. Goldfinches twittered merrily from the pastures, which also harbored Grasshopper Sparrows, Meadowlarks and Tree Sparrows. A covey of Quail exploded from a river-side copse. Cedar Waxwings called softly as they passed over, but a Red-shouldered Hawk's passage was accentuated by loud screams. The wood notes of a Robin really added a touch of spring to the atmosphere.

At Cohouck Pt., where Chaptico Bay enters the Wicomico, a large company of Pintails, with a few Mallards, Shovellers and Baldpates were feeding on the beach and in the shallow water. The scope revealed the pert, stream-lined Pintails as they twisted about, dabbling in the water, or preening on sand bars. The Widgeon waddled about the beach, where Mallards probed the wave-washed vegetation. Several Pied-billed Grebes and a lone Horned Grebe mingled with ducks. Far across the river, at Barber Point, a dozen Swans were resting on a mud-bar and Cans, Scaups, with Buffleheads and Golden-eyes were present along the opposite shore. A raft of several score Geese had settled in the Wicomico - in the middle of the stream. Mourning Doves flew up with whinnying wings from the wheat stubble, where Cowbirds, Meadowlarks and Red-wings were singing.

The waterfowl at Mills Point were in the last rays of the setting sun

FIELD NOTES (TRIPS) - 1950 - (continued)

which added to the reddish, rich chestnut tinge of the Redheads and Canvasbacks, made the Baldpates' crowns whiter and the Ruddy's cheeks brighter. Buffleheads were diving with Golden-eyes and Mergansers, and several Coot moved about like a huge floating island, cutting a swathe through the water as they moved.

A Snowy Owl rose up from the field at Mill's Point and swung to a perch atop a Cedar, where it pivoted its head, blinked and looked out over the river. The circular field of the scope revealed the huge black-flecked bird amidst the cedar boughs - a picture of pictures! The owl later dropped down with graceful motion, lit on a dirt clod, then flew to a tree by the river, and finally opened its immense wings and floated back to earth, where it stood like a white ghost on the prairie.

9. POINT LOOKOUT, ST. JEROME'S CREEK, ST. MARY'S BAY, BRETON BAY AND MILLS PT., MD.

February 18, 1950 - (59 species)



THE sun stared icily at the pinelands and waterways of the southern Maryland peninsula as it dawned, but smiled warmly throughout the day and settled in calm, satisfied repose at dusk. From its tip-most end at Pt. Lookout, up the Potomac at blue St. Mary's Bay and peaceful Breton Bay to the Wicomico-good, beautiful Wicomico - the peninsula smiled right back. The touch of Spring that pervaded the atmosphere a week ago faded with the warm weather, but the pines were greener, the waters cleaner and the birds singier.

A "dry-ki" formed by the backing water of a creek, which flooded a low stand of pine, yielded the first birds of the day. A Pied-billed Grebe swam about the pine skeletons and a Kingfisher rattled to a perch over his reflection. Myrtle Warblers fed excitedly amid the drowned woods, and a Flicker's call sounded from the distance.

Buffleheads and Oldsquaws were on hand to greet us at Pt. Lookout. Straggling groups of jaunty male 'Butter-balls' whisked in aerial circles over the roughened Chesapeake, some sliding into a flotilla of other Buffle-heads, others delighting in their lofty constitutionals. The gaudy Old-squaws flaunted in wisps over the waves and bobbed in the water, alongside a bunch of Surf Scoters, whose white head markings appeared with each roll of the water. A few orange-billed American Scoters flew by, and Horned Grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers were scoped in the river, along with American Golden-eyes. Ring-billed and Herring Gulls stood over a Killdeer at the sand spit forming Pt. Lookout itself, and Horned Larks tinkled from the open beach. One Lark mounted into the blue, over land and water, and

FIELD TRIPS- 1950- (continued)

gushed forth bubbling, bell-quality song. Meadowlarks caroled from the ground and Goldfinches chattered happily as they bounded over the fields.

On the Potomac River, a few miles upstream from the point, puffy-headed Buffle-heads and Golden-eyes were congregated with a few dishevelled Red-breasted Mergansers, that were well dressed despite their unkempt hair. A couple of Cormorants sunned themselves on poles, and a half a hundred Bonaparte's Gulls whirled together over the river like shore-birds, finally resting on the pilings in the water. Seven Baldpate and three Gadwall were busy tipping at the mouth of a marshy creek, near several Horned Grebes. A dozen Brown-headed Nuthatches yipped and whined from the crowns of lob-lollys towering over the river. Sparrow and Marsh Hawks traced their flight over the same territory.

A pair of trim, well-colored Canvasbacks fed with a group of eighteen Gr. Scaup in St. Jerome's Creek, inletting from the Chesapeake, which also produced Red-breasted Mergansers, Golden-eyes and Oldsquaws were found.

Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks hung high in the blue over the pines and fields by St. Mary's River, and an immature Eagle was perched on a bush near the beach. A flock of gulls stood motionless on an isolated, marsh-fringed pool and two Horned Grebes dived in the River.

A lovely spot at Bratton Bay, looking out towards Blackstone Island, produced several dozen clean-cut Golden-eyes and a sprinkling of black and white Buffle-heads. A pair of Surf Scoters floated near the opposite shore, where a convoy of Horned Grebes swam. Many Coots were clustered about a blind, and scattered individually ducks skittered over the water, far out near the island.

The "sanctified" waters of the Wicomico sparkled in the late afternoon sun, where serenity reigned over the broad expanse at Mills Point. A hundred or so Canvasbacks, in high, strung-out lines, silhouetted against the light of the sky, were flying upstream. Many of them dimpled the surface of Chaptico Bay, where Ruddy Ducks were resting. Shovellers (several resplendent drakes) were sifting the mud industriously, and Baldpates flagged their white hind sections as they tipped in company with a few Gadwalls. At Cohock Pt. on the opposite shore of Chaptico Bay, a raft of Redheads and Canvasbacks, with several score of Canada Geese, was quite active. Looking across the, to Hatton Farm, the scope afforded views of a dozen Swans on the same sand flat as a week ago, and many thousands of ducks. An adult Bald Eagle flapped with majestic strokes out over Chaptico Bay, crossed the Wicomico slowly, surely, dropped low over the water and sailed to a perch on a stake in the water, where it surveyed its domain.

When the ghosts of Arctic, the Snowy Owls, are inspired by the spirits of

FIELD TRIPS-1950- (continued)

the icy Northern wilds to descend to unknown lands of trees, houses and men, not even they themselves know to what far-away regions their wide white wings will take them. But it seems more than a coincidence that the field at Mills Point would be the destination for three of them. For there were three of their silent white hulks there today. One bird sat blinking on a clod in the middle of the plain; the other on a tuft of grass at the foot of an incline, and the third atop a tree by the house of man. The scope permitted excellent views of all three birds.

The sun was dipping beyond the distant western shore of the Wicomico, as we left, not unlike it appeared at the dawn in the East, but then it was friendlier, more pleasant.

10. CHAPEL POINT, WICOMICO RIVER from ALLEN'S FRESH to MILLS POINT, MD.



February 25, 1950- 56 Species

ATERFOWL passed in glorious pageant on the Potomac and Wicomico rivers today. The brisk wind bore thousands of them over the waves and crystal clear waters laved as many shining, brilliantly-plumaged breasts. The Potomac at chapel Point and the Wicomico from Allen's Fresh to Mills Point formed the beautiful natural stage for them to perform on.

Ruddy Ducks rolled and tumbled in the shifting, wind-tossed waters of Port Tobacco Creek at chapel Point, where a group of Black Ducks was tipping in the shallows along shore. Several pairs of American Mergansers sported their cream-colored breasts with 'rosy bloom' and their dark heads with glistening green sheen, and several Baldpates flapped black and white wings through the stiff breeze, and slid into the water. Canvasbacks and Coots were feeding on the opposite shore, near a flotilla of Whistling Swans. But the features of Act I were three Old-squaws, including one sprig-tailed, boldly-daubed male, which were gleaming a sustenance from the river-bottom a few yards off-shore. They strutted their colors fearlessly, allowing excellent studies of their bizarre chocolate-brown and white costumes. An Immature eagle pulled down the curtain on Act I at chapel Point, but not before two Sapsuckers had displayed their fiery-red head markings and a collection of Grackles, Meadowlarks and starlings descended upon a corn-field.

Act II, Scene I, on the Wicomico, began at Allen's Fresh, where Red-wings and Killdeers were tripping over the exposed mud-margins of the marshes, and Ring-billed Gulls dipped in company with Marsh Hawks over the yellowed grasses.

The curtain rose again at Luckton's Point. A group of azure-backed,

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

ruddy-breasted caroled to each other from Cedars and fence-posts and weed stalks. Goldfinches bounded merrily over fields that hid Vesper Sparrows and Red-bellied Woodpeckers complained impatiently at being disturbed. Two Red-tailed Hawks soared in the blue, looking down upon a river full of ducks. The early morning sun shone brilliantly on the rich tan-brown, iridescent heads of the blue-billed Redheads, and the purple-glossed Ring-necks. The clear light of early day also reflected beautifully the white-crowns of Baldpates and the cheek patches of Ruddy Ducks, that played alongside dignified Canvasbacks and a few demure Gadwalls. Scaups were in this group, too, that fed close to marshy shores where a creek entered the river. Spike-topped Red-breasted Mergansers were outnumbered, but not inconspicuous. The leading duck of the scene was the Redhead, the scope permitting superb studies of this strikingly beautiful-in plumage and form-species.

Scene 2 of Act II was set on the long areas of exposed tidal flats along the Wicomico shores at Indiantown and Cohouck Point. The dabbling ducks starred, with Pintails, Baldpates, Black Ducks and Mallards playing the foremost roles. The green heads of the Mallards glistened with greenest greenness of a thousand springs. Blacks and Pintails leaped off the muddy ledges and flew downstream, but the contrastingly-colored Baldpates left for more remote regions. A pair of dainty, but lovely, Green-winged Teals were present here, too, the green of their head-adornment and wings gleaming with that shining, glistening, sparkling sheen found only in waterfowl. Canada Geese and Whistling Swans formed the back-drop of the scene, feeding in rank on the opposite shore, which was cluttered with white-bodied Canvasbacks. Buffle-heads and Golden-eyes played minor parts, as did Pied-billed and Horned Grebes.

Scene III, at Choptico Bay, brought about the entrée of the Shoveller, whose green-heads rivalled the Mallards' and ^{whose} orange-red sides matched the Bluebirds' breasts, but whose bills have no equal. Gadwalls, rich brown heads and clean grey bodies, were among the Choptico species, which included Mergansers, Canvasbacks and Ruddies. Meadowlarks and Pipits were conspicuous on the open wheat fields of Cohouck Point and, later, at Mills Pt.

The three Snowy Owls of Mills Point appeared in the last act, which also featured Coots, Canvasbacks and Ruddy Ducks. The Snowies stood on the open field, motionless, save for blinking of eyes and the twisting of heads. The curtain fell on the Snowy owls, standing apart, still and quiet at Mills Point.

FIELD TRIPS- 1950- (continued)

II. OCEAN CITY and SINEPUXENT BAY from SOUTH POINT TO ST. MARTIN'S, MD.

March 4, 1950-(58 species)



HERE the sedges on the white beach bend before the wind whipping over the sand-dunes; where the sky is nearly as blue as a Bluebird's wing, and the water is the same color; where the rolling surf sounds loudly on the beach and carcens wildly about the jetty rocks - there is the land of the mysterious Snow Goose and the Brant, there are the haunts of the cormorants and Scoters, and there one finds the domain of the Black-backed Gull and the Old-squaw.

stopping inland only for a visit to a fresh-water pond, today's tour indeed was tinged with the brine of the sea and the sand of the shore, as the ocean surf at Ocean City and Sinepuxent Bay from South Point north to the St. Martin's River was visited.

Superb views of the orange-tubercled American Scoters were enjoyed at the inlet by Assateague Island, where Surf and white-winged brethren were cavorting 'midst the frothy brine by the rocky jetty. Double-crested Cormorants stood with outstretched wings on a signal-pole, and soared over the water, or swam with elongated necks. Old-squaws and Red-breasted Mergansers were present here, too, and Horned Larks tinkled overhead as they chased one another in sportive flight.

The nasal, trumpeted notes of Greater Snow Geese betrayed their flight ranks over the Island, as they flew down Sinepuxent Bay. The black tips of the snow-white wings, moving in slow, steady motion, and contrasted with the blueness of the morning sky was a sight unsurpassed - until a few minutes later, when another large group appeared, their calls sounding with a melancholy longing for their Artic Homes. still another company passed over, higher and slower, and moving in long white file across the blue.

Sanderlings raced over sand flats in Sinepuxent near West Ocean City, and the solitary figure of a Black-backed Gull stood above smaller Herrings and Ring-bills, and towered over a sprinkling of demure little Bonaparte's Gulls that crouched humbly amid such regal surroundings. Killdeers fed on the flats, too, as did Fish Crows.

The fresh water lake nestled amid green pine woods and yellow Trappe Creek marshes was frozen over, save for an open patch in the

FIELD TRIPS 1950-(continued)

center, which was crammed with ducks and geese, mostly geese. Several hundred Canadas stood on the ice, while others swam about en masse. One immature Snow goose was present. Bunches of Geese were supplementing those on the water at regular intervals, dropping in from the Ocean via Trappe Creek. A dozen or so top-heavy, glistening-green-headed, burnt-orange-bellied, harlequin-wing-patterned shovellers were prominent on the group in the water. Hollards' green heads were conspicuous, too, as were the shining speculums of dainty Green-winged Teal, whose chocolate-brown heads and green bandanas were scoped at good advantage as they stood on the ice. Coots and Black Ducks were present with this group at 'Heiney's Pond' as were also Pintails.

Roadside observations included an eagle being harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk, several scores of Meadowlarks, two dozen Mourning Doves and many azure-backed, ruddy-chested, beautiful, lovely Bluebirds.

At South Pt., Sinepuxent Bay was besprinkled with Buffle-heads, with a few Golden-eyes, and a goodly number of Oldsquaws. Newport Bay produced three Common Loons, Pied-billed Grebes, Buffle-heads and Golden-eyes.

A mass of Brant rose like wind-swept confetti from the shore of Assateague Island and briefly circled the South Point area, revealing their white face crescents and rumps, and then settled again in the same spot. The whole flotilla covered a sizeable portion of the opposite shore-line, but still another bery of Brant appeared over the water below the Point, and after moving over the water in close-knit, swerving shore-bird fashion dropped to rest at the place where the first appeared.

A hundred or so Pintails were feeding in a small open portion of a marsh-fringed fresh-water pond near Isle of Wight Bay, near a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks that defied the crows by perching boldly on pine crowns. A Turkey Vulture fed on the skeletal carcass of an animal near the Pintails.

The low lying marshy islands and extensive mud-flats north of Ocean City yielded more Pintails and Black Ducks, tipping in the shallows, and a convoy of 15 Baldpates that fed among some gulls. Boat-tailed Grackles, Scoters and Killdeers were also present in this picturesque spot.

The fiery orange-red sun settled to rest within a cradle ~~within~~ ^{among} of vermillion-tinted clouds, that opened enough to permit the blinding, golden, sparkling reflection of the sun in the water.

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

12. OCEAN CITY, SALISBURY, CAMBRIDGE, KENT NARROWS, MATAPEAKE, MD. -(60)

March 5, 1950-(60 species)



THE automobile linked the Eastern Shore from Ocean to Bay, covering a land basking in the warmth of spring-like sunshine, which followed cold and rain. The fields were fresh, the pines green and the waterways blue and sparkling.

The sky was wet and overcast at Ocean City, but cleared to bright blue at Salisbury, and stayed that way at Cambridge, Kent Narrows and Matapeake.

A grey, light-streaked horizon loomed over the sea at Ocean City, but good views of Red-breasted Mergansers, Scoters and old-squaws were enjoyed at Assateague Inlet, where Cormorants and gulls were also conspicuous. A misty rain enveloped the rocky jetty, and the incoming tide swirled about the hidden boulders, but in the sea-ducks were at home in this whirlpool of current and waves.

At Salisbury, the little park with the stream flowing through it was overflowing with Robins, thousands having arrived overnight, and Juncos, along with a Sapsucker, some Titmice and a Nuthatch. Two Pied-billed Grebes, both well-advanced in spring plumage, were swimming together in the artificial stream.

The marshes of Nanticoke, at Vienna, waved rusty-yellow greetings to us and produced Mallards, Black Ducks, American Mergansers, Red-wings, Pied-billed Grebes and three Red-tailed Hawks, the latter playing in circles in the sky over the pines.

Several hundred white-bodied, tan-headed Canvasbacks bobbed in clear, greenish-blue waters of the Choptank, with Greater Scaup and Golden-eyes. Whistling Swans clustered on the opposite shore, and Buffle-heads were present, too. Four Baldpates probably decoyed what was the prize of the day: an adult male European Widgeon. Its brownish-red head glistening in the noon-day sun, the bird was sleeping, rising and falling with the water, but soon it untucked its head, revealed the buffy crown and swam about, flaunting its grey-toned Baldpate lines. The Widgeon was watched floating in the clear Choptank near the bridge at Cambridge for a half an hour. Whence it came - from Icelandic wastes or British bays by Dover's cliffs - nor where it is now - bobbing in the choptank, tipping in the Blackwater marsh pools or winging over moonlit waters to the North - no one can tell.

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

A tidal creek above Easton was fertile, producing Pintails, upturning in the mud, or swinging asleep in tide-driven circles, and a few Baldpates, with a noisy Kingfisher and nervous Killdeer. It was a pretty little creek, shady under the banks, with marshy islets and guts and rich in ducks.

More Swans were noticed at Kent Narrows, standing on the ice or barking softly in flight, and a group of Coots, with plenty of Ring-billed Gulls near Kent Island. At Matapeake was observed a flock of Geese, and scores of old-squaws, with a few Golden-eyes and Surf Scoters. The sun set beyond the bay, beyond the Severn River, beyond the trees and beyond a lot more than could be seen from the ferry crossing the bay.

13. KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS AND ENVIRONS, D.C. - (36)

March 11, 1950 - (36 species)

ONLY four society members defied the cold, grey dawn at Kenilworth Gardens, but all were rewarded by the presence of many birds and a variety of species.

Long straggling wedges of ducks, mostly Pintails, but with a sprinkling of Blacks and Mallards, were watched flying downstream high over the Anacostia. Flying high, they appeared to have come a long way, but perhaps they were feeding on the marshes above the railroad bridge. Pintails, the slim, graceful greyhounds of the waterfowl world, passed over, circled the area, and then continued on their way, but several Blacks and Mallards dropped down to feed by the mud-flats in the river. The scope revealed a trim pair of Mallards in the water near the pistol range, and three American Mergansers fluttered up laboriously from the central lake. A convoy of Pied-billed Grebes were swimming in a small inner lake by an island.

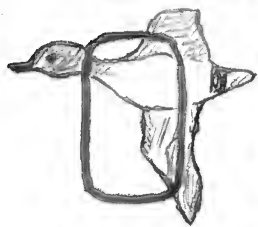
A Great Blue Heron flushed from a pool in the aquatic gardens and lumbered to a perch in the swamp bordering the ponds, and a Cooper's Hawk, sailing in lofty circles, suddenly plummeted earthward, but checked its flight abruptly above the tree-tops. A Red-shoulder flapped over the Peninsula, too.

The sweet caroling of the Fox Sparrow sounded from a riverside tangle, and several superb views of this big, reddish-brown sparrow were enjoyed. Field Sparrows trilled, though still a bit rusty, and Titmice and Chickadees, along with 3 Brown Creepers were active, along with Robins and Downy Woodpeckers.

Field Trips-1950-(continued)

14. ROACHES RUN, NATIONAL AIRPORT, HUNTING CREEK, VIRGINIA

March 19, 1950-(30 species)



ONE hundred and fifty years ago, the city of Washington was hardly more than a cross-roads settlement, and the Potomac flowed clean and clear past wooded banks, rocky palisades and breeze-swept marshes. It was then that March brought hordes of waterfowl, lingering awhile before continuing their journey to the Northlands. Rafts of diving ducks - Canvasbacks, Scaups, Redheads - bobbed in the choppy waters off Hains Point, and squadrons of other species - Pintails, Blacks, Baldpates and Mallards, calling to comrades feeding on the extensive mudflats exposed by the springtide - filled the skies. One hundred and fifty springs have since seen the spectacle of spring waterfowl migration, but things have changed. The city has burst its seams, man has poisoned the river and the tidal flats are washed with sewage and debris. And the wildfowl have paid dearly, but the spring migration movements continue! The flights now are but a pitiful remnant of the myriad throngs of ducks that once winged Northward, but they continue. A fair representation of the pond duck movement was noted today, from the Tidal Basin down to Dyke.

Mergansers - big black and white, red-billed Americans and dishoweled, orange-fronted Red-breasteds - were swimming amidst the gulls in the Tidal Basin and the scope afforded fine views of both species.

The Sanctuary at Roaches Run, where the waters nearly reflected the Washington Monument, was rich in pintails - most of which were doubtless winter-long residents. Mallards, Black Ducks and a pair of Baldpate were present too. Trim Pintails were on both shores, some preening on the bank, others standing on logs or feeding on the grain provided for them. A Great Blue Heron stood as high as the yellow grass on the bank, and Red-wings gurgled from the trees.

Birds were plentiful, too, in the Airport Cove, where the low tide left wide-reaching mud-flats. Ring-billed Gulls stood in long white ranks, and a few Black Ducks dabbled in the marshy brink, but featured here was a large group of 200 Green-winged Teal, which were wheeling about over the shallows in small bunches, swimming about, standing on the mud and dipping in the silt. A few female Mergansers were present here, too.

More Pintails dropped into Hunting Creek lagoon, calling softly

Field Trips-1950-(continued)

as they scaled in on set wings, then fluttered hesitantly before dropping down to the slick flats. Several groups came in from over the river, circled the area, and then drifted down in the wind. Several pairs of Green-winged Teals industriously sifted the silt and gulls stood motionless on the bars. The city of Alexandria formed a back-drop to this scene.

Two Wood Ducks leaped from the marshy rivulet at Dyke and disappeared into the swampy woods beyond. A Great Blue Heron watched curiously and then left in a huff, its slate-blue wings lifting it up and over the marsh. Song Sparrows, Myrtle Warblers, and Juncos flitted about the Dyke peninsula, and several more Mergansers were swimming far out in the Potomac.

15. ALLEN'S FRESH, WICOMICO RIVER, MARYLAND

March 25, 1950 - (57 species)



THE savannah-like marshes that border the upper Wicomico at Allen's Fresh are rich in birdlife, but only by penetrating deep within the yellow plain in a boat can the realm of the ducks, feeding on the tidal pools, and the shorebirds probe the muddy margins of the grassy islands be reached. From the Cedar groves that border Zekiah Swamp at the head of the Fresh, down through the marshy plain to where the river widens and the marsh becomes less extensive the boat invaded the domain of the Snipe and the Teal, the Gulls and the Mergansers.

Grackles and Song Sparrows sang from the trees by the bridge at Allen's Fresh and, along with the caroling Meadowlarks and the bubbling Red-wings tinted the atmosphere with spring. Gulls floated erratically in March breezes over the river and marsh that nestled between the green slopes of the Maryland countryside.

Wilson's Snipe Fluttered up, whirling about in the wind, and circling over before settling again, their long bills and whirring wings, along with the harsh note, like the scraping of rocks, combining to produce a grotesque, eerie effect. Snipe flushed often throughout the trip, not only from the marsh, but from the boggy pools formed in low areas on farmlands.

The channel was still narrow when a group of Mergansers were surprised. Big, ungainly Americans pattered over the water, stretched out their lanky frames, and headed for safer climes, but a smaller, male Hooded preferred to swim away, exhibiting his white-centered, fan-

Field Trips- 1950-(continued)

shaped crest and orange sides, until we got too close, and then it flew away also. Mallards and Black Ducks spiralled out of the grasses in pairs, and several groups of them passed overhead, silhouetted against the grey dawn. Several Blacks that left a shallow pool took up with them a trio of Blue-winged Teal, their light blue wing-patches and white-crested faces flashing as they dashed in light, airy flight over the water. Pintails passed overhead, too, and several Baldpate flapped upstream, followed by three darkling Green-wing Teal.

An Osprey, sitting alongside a bulky nest overlooking the Fresh, was harried by an adult eagle, which displaced it from the perch and landed on the nest. The Fish Hawk, screaming vengefully and mounting into the air, plummeted down past the nest, causing the Eagle to flap out over the fields and sail away. If the nest belonged to the Eagle, it probably would already have eggs in it.

Good views of Scaup Ducks and Ruddies were enjoyed after the water widened a bit, and several Great Blue Herons labored slowly, consistently up river, high in the sky. Where the river broadened to form an expansive lake just before opening into the wide portion of the river, several hundred Canvasbacks were feeding, along with groups of Shovellers and Scaups, and many Ruddies. A fishing boat scared the flock into flight and they passed right overhead, wings whistling. Several hundred more Ruddy Ducks were farther downstream, and beys of Canvasbacks and Scaup flew over. Pied-billed Grebes eyed us suspiciously from near shore off a point where Bluebirds fed near a Cedar clump and Fox Sparrows stood out against the leafless woodland. Ospreys were conspicuous here, too, courasing back and forth, perching on pilings and calling shrilly.

A warm, lazy afternoon in the Wicomico Valley found Red-bellied and Hairy Woodpeckers in its woods and quail, Field Sparrows and Veasper Sparrows in its fields and Marsh Hawks quartering over the marshes.

16. PENNYFIELD TO SENECA, POTOMAC RIVER, MARYLAND

March 26, 1950- (63 Species)



THE upper Potomac valley forms a unique natural fly-way. Waterfowl, moving to the northwestern prairies and Alaska tundra from their wintering grounds along the Southern coasts, find the wide expanse of water above Great Falls as a haven of rest after a night of flying, and the wooded ridges and rocky gorges form a natural highway for the land birds - warblers, sparrows

Field Trips- 1950-(continued)

and thrushes. The duck migration was near its height this morning, but only the hardiest of land birds - Sparrows, Finches and Swallows - were trickling through, but an abundance and variety of birds combined with the scenic beauty of the Potomac Valley to produce a fine trip.

A Phoebe called persistently from the willows overhanging the Diersen Sanctuary ponds, and a group of Cowbirds rattled over the canal. A bevy of Hooded Mergansers, their fan-like crest ornamenting their neat black, white and orange dress, were swimming amidst a bed of stumpy reeds. Some of the birds paddled out into full view, the males resplendent against the dark green water. Looks at this flock in flight were enjoyed, too, and still others were watched in the water in another pond. Convoys of Redheads and Ring-necks, glossy and shining in their fresh spring colors, were well-observed on the placid waters of the sanctuary. Mallards and Black Ducks leaped skyward from among the drowned button-bushes, where cat-tails were also well established. Wood Ducks screamed raucously as they left the pools. Coots and Pied-billed Grebes were also feeding among the flooded saplings and shrubbery that were formed with development of the refuge.

Lengthy ranks of Ring-necked Ducks were concentrated under the banks of the opposite shore, feeding in the slower water there. In the center of the river, where a current swiftened by rising water rushed, were large numbers of blue-billed, white-backed Scaups, that rested while the river carried them downstream. One Canvasback was noted and several black and white Buffle-heads were in the open river also. Ring-billed Gulls passed high over the water in formation, heading North, and calling friends sitting below on the water. A Marsh Hawk careened low over the Diersen ponds and out over the Potomac.

The enchanting song of the Fox Sparrow drifted out of the woods alongside the river, where Red-bellied Woodpeckers complained, Myrtle Warblers chipped and White-throats chinked. Several lovely, bright strawberry-red Purple Finches were well observed along the canal, and Juncos trilled sweetly, inspired by the warm weather. Chickadees, Titmice, Creepers and Nuthatches were also active.

Just above the rapids at Blackhouse Point, a flotilla of Pintails, tails high, faced the brunt of the current, which carried many of them down through the rapids. A mussed-up Red-breasted Merganser swam boldly just off-shore, allowing arm's-length looks.

FIELD TRIPS- 1950-(continued)

Pied-billed and Horned Grebes were bunched together near Seneca Creek, where Grackles and Robins proclaimed their arrival. Two dozen Bald-pates floated in the center of the Potomac, and several American Mergansers were far over, near the distant shore. The soft barking of Geese sounded upstream, betraying a flock just settling in the water among a large gathering of them already swimming.

Two male Shovellers, clad in iridescent greens, burnt-oranges and jet blacks, were dabbling in Seneca Swamp, where four Blue-winged Teals, pastel blue wing-patches conspicuously showing in their quiet, buoyant flights as they flew up from the grassy pools and settled on the sliding river.

The rapids off Blackhouse Point produced a pair of Golden-eyes and a Pileated Woodpecker, disappearing, unsubstantial shades of the woodland, was glimpsed as it bounded off into the tall Sycamores by the canal.



17. PENNYFIELD TO SENECA, POTOMAC RIVER, MARYLAND

April 6, 1950 - (51 species)



WATERFOWL moving high over the Potomac Valley on still, moonlit nights, look down upon the silvery river, winding through a fertile valley, with wide, sweeping farms and woodlands bordering its forested shores. The narrow reaches

above Great Falls, with its many islets and rapids, and the calmer, broader expanse at Seneca beckon invitingly to the wing-weary birds, and thousands of them rest and feed there. Today, in the river by Pennyfield Lock, large groups of waterfowl were swimming under grey, wind-driven clouds. A flotilla of several score Scaup breasted the current, swaying gently with waves and occasionally diving beneath the surface, although the water was perhaps a bit too swift for feeding. The telescope afforded interesting studies of them, revealing their green-glossed heads, spatulate blue bills, and white bodies, set off on each end by black. Far over, under the budding branches of willows overhanging the water, a hundred or so Ring-necked Ducks were busily diving for food. The scope picked out their purple-tinted, slightly tufted heads and well-tailored black and white fuselages as they rode the quieter waters nearer shore. Two female Buffle-heads, small and brown, with the white head spot standing out, were present, too.

Myriads of swallows, mostly Tree, but with a goodly smattering

Field Trips - 1950 - (continued)

of fork-tailed Barns and a few Rough-wings were skittering over the waters of the Dienssen Sanctuary. The air was brisk, the day cloudy and chill, but the swallows were as chipper as if they were hawking over a South American jungle stream. The sleek, blue-green backs of the white-breasted Tree Swallows glistened as they wheeled and darted over the water, in company with the formally clad Barn Swallows, their tails scissoring as they turned in flight.

A few Ring-necked Ducks were swimming sedately in the ponds of the Sanctuary, where a couple of Pied-billed Grebes found the dark waters amidst the tangled shrubbery to their liking. Several Mallards left the marsh in a huff and Wood Ducks complained shrilly as they vamooseed. The little Blue-winged Teals, however, peeped softly and fluttered away, their wing patches adding a dash of color to the still, dark waters. Several pairs of spectacularly feathered Wood Ducks weaved in and out between the drowned entanglements, and perched atop floating logs, preening themselves. Good views of both this species and the demure Blue-wings were enjoyed from hiding on the shore, and watching the unsuspecting ducks through the labyrinthine maze as they twisted between roots and branchlets, hardly stirring the black waters.

Landbirds were active, too. Many Juncos were trilling sweetly and groups flitted up from the Towpath at regular intervals. Golden-crowned and Ruby-Crowned Kinglets were conspicuous and one tiny Ruby-crown was so inspired, perhaps by remembrances of his summer home in the Canadian Spruce forests, that it burst into a flurry of bubbling melody. Palm Warblers wagged their tails and called pleasingly and their ever present Myrtle brethren chipped excitedly from every copse and bramble. White-throats and Song Sparrows added to the medley, and Goldfinches whistled happily. The peevish cries of the little blue-grey mites of Gnatcatchers sounded from higher up in the trees, which were budding hopefully, but not too promisingly. They seemed particularly blue in their fresh spring plumage. Flickers and Kingfishers added their louder, more harsh two cents worth, and Turkey Vultures sailed over the canal, in company with a pair of majestic Bald Eagles that scaled low over the ridges, permitting superb looks at them.

A pair of Hooded Mergansers were well studied as they rocked gently in the broad expanse of the river just below Seneca. Good views of the birds were enjoyed as they flew by, then slid into the waves. The scope brought the two birds in close, and the brownish-orange sides and boldly doubled black markings on the breast, combined with the strikingly feathered head

FIELD TRIPS - 1950 - (continued)

and crest presented a pleasing picture, framed by puffs of clouds in the sky and a distant line of trees. Pied-billed Grebes were present in Seneca Creek and six Common Loons, in fresh, bright spring uniforms, were well observed in the open river. The scope readily revealed their black and white checkered backs and white collars, punctuating dark heads as they sat, low-lying in the water.

But the golden moments (or hours) of the trip were spent at Seneca Marsh, which was crowded with Blue-winged Teal, and had a fair representation of Baldpates, Wood Ducks, Grebes, Coots and a gorgeous pair of male shovellers, doubtless the two that were present here two weeks ago. The water in the little marsh pool was like a glass covering over the dark green bottom, where the little fowl were tipping and dabbling for food. Blue-wings were up-ended struggling with their yellow feet to keep their balance, preening beside tufts of marsh, slowly plying the crystal waters, which reflected perfectly spotted breasts and white face crescents, and playfully pursuing each other in flurries of feathers and water. Almost all the Teal were males, and there was spirited competition to be near the indifferent appearing hens, although several drakes retired to an isolated clump of reeds and bathed, dipping their bills into the water, and vigorously probing their soft brown breasts or spreading the pastel-shaded wing patch. The larger, more highly-colored Baldpate were industriously gobbling up the scum of green algae that had formed on parts of the pool. Some Widgeon just paddled idly. The two shovellers, which stood above the Teal, and shone with dazzling plumage, spent most of the time upside down, with only their black and white hind sections appearing above water. When they did show their whole selves, they were exceptionally beautiful, their dark, iridescent green heads, black, white and orange bodies and massive spoon-like bill unlike any other waterfowl. The Wood Ducks, though, were the ultimate in wild duck beauty, the vivid reds, purples and greens defying description. Several males, resplendent against the dark waters, conveyed mates back into the black water that disappeared imperceptibly into the drowned undergrowth. Here, in the dark, limpid pools, laced over by entwining branches and shrubbery, is the fitting realm of the beautiful, enchanting Wood Duck.

+ 11²

18. DIERKEN WATERFOWL SANCTUARY AND SENECA, MARYLAND

April 8, 1950 - (61 species)



AWKS soaring over the beautiful farming country that borders the Potomac Valley can enjoy the perspective that would stir the human heart almost beyond its earthly limits. Imagine being able to look down upon

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(Continued)

the rolling green hills and gently sloping woodlands that are scattered about the squared areas of cultivated fields below. And just picture view of the river, a bright blue in the spring sun, flowing past forest-fringed shores, rocky headlands and wooded islets. All this - a magnificent panorama was before a Red-tailed Hawk this morning as it coursed over the uplands above Pennyfield Lock.

As it veered, showing its bright cinnamon tail feathers, it may have seen the scattering of ducks in the Potomac near the Dierssen Waterfowl Sanctuary. A hundred or so plump Scaup Ducks swam complacently in the center of the stream, diving sporadically in company with a few deeply tanned Canvasbacks, a group of lovely little Buffleheads, a gathering of well-dressed Ring-necks, and a lone wanderer from the Ocean - a white-winged scoter. The latter bird, in rather drab immature plumage, mixed with other ducks, but didn't dive, preferring to swim just enough to prevent the current from carrying it downstream. The big tubercle on the bill and white patch in the wing, combined with the large size of the duck served to identify it. The diminutive but aggressive Buffleheads were the most active of the group, the immaculate males, sporting their clear whites and jet blacks among the duller hued females as they dived energetically or flew upriver in close-knit bunches.

Perhaps, as the hawk dropped low over the sanctuary ponds it could see the crowd of Blue-winged Teals sifting and probing about the shallow, marshy areas in the upper pool, or the little Pied-billed Grebes that slowly slid beneath the surface when disturbed. It might even have heard the loud, pumping noises made by the ludicrous Coots or the hollow cackling of the Grebes. The Mallards that whistled up from the corn-field margin and the dark Wood Ducks that screamed ^{noisily} vigorously as they flapped out of the quiet, dark reaches would be conspicuous, as would the swallows that skimmed over the water in quest of insects. Some of the Barn Swallows might even fly up near the big bird, and certainly the Rough-wings and Tree Swallows that mounted into the blue would come near it. ~~But~~ ^{hawk} The might have missed the shy little tangle Hooded Merganser that paddled about among the drowned undergrowth, but certainly the Osprey that flapped over the ponds and settled on a sycamore stub would not pass its sharp eyes.

FIELD TRIPS-1950 (continued)

Purple Finches could be heard singing sweetly, and White-throats, Field Sparrows, Juncos, and Goldfinches would not remain unnoticed. The glorious little melody that tinkles forth from the tiny throat of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet would have been interesting, but the soft lisps of Myrtle Warblers and the chipper staccato of a Palm Warbler might pass unheeded. The unobtrusive little Brown Creepers do not mind shunning the limelight, though.

But the big bird would not ^{have} missed the Red-shouldered Hawk, into whose domain he was invading, that sails over the bottomland woods.

As its wings bore it upriver over the tiny hamlet of Seneca, it could look down upon the ~~flat~~ Pied-billeds out in the river there, or upon the Blue-winged Teals that graced the shallow, crystal clear waters of Seneca marsh, where the Coots and Wood Ducks hide and grebes skulk. The Blue-wings jumped from the water of the marsh, calling softly, but anxiously, when approached, and settled on the broad stretch of Potomac.

The Red-tail would have to look up, though, to see the soaring Bald Eagle, its white head and tail standing out against the blue of the sky. Wonder how the land spread out below looked to the eagle, as its powerful pinions bore it among the cottony clouds.

HT

19. PENNYFIELD AND SENECA, MARYLAND - (72 species)

April 15, 1950 - (72 species)



THE Potomac flowed clean and clear in the crisp dawn and its waters at Pennyfield and Seneca were be-littered with water-fowl, lingering yet because of the late spring. The wooded valley and the canal towpath were full of bird-life, too, many migrants having just arrived from the south. Puffs of clouds hovered ominously over the Piedmont and the Valley, and a brisk breeze sighed over the fields and the waters, but the green budding of the trees, ^{and} the scattered bird song gave promise of the spring that was knocking impatiently at Nature's door.

Scaups and Ring-necked Ducks bobbed in the open water off Watkins' Island, and superb views of both species were enjoyed through the scope. A white-winged Scoter, probably the same one observed last week, was conspicuous as were the Buffle-heads, white sprights of the waves, diving, courting, flying about or resting quietly, their spotless white and coal black uniforms outlined against the blue-green of the river and darkness of the shore-line. A

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

A pair of Wood Ducks flew through the tree-tops over Watkins Island, and later many more were well-observed both on the refuge ponds and in the canal. A bevy of Golden-eyes, swimming near Blockhouse Point, whistled off of the water, circled over the river, flashing black and white, and dropped into the water near the opposite shore. They were still close enough for the scope to permit excellent studies of their green-glossed head, yellow eye and well-marked body. Four serpentine Red-breasted Mergansers, swimming near them, soon took off and headed up-river.

An Osprey hovered over the waterfowl, hanging in the wind, and then sailed down over the Pierssen Sanctuary, which harbored a company of Fairy-like Blue-winged Teals, many gaudily-daubed Wood Ducks and their mates, a flock of Shining Ring-necks, a pair of Mallards and Pied-billed Grebes and Coots. Swallows, mostly Tree, with a sprinkling of Barns and Rough-wingeds, hawked over the ponds and a Yellow Palm Warbler flitted amidst the bordering brushwood. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, singing like two pieces of leather rubbing together, were present, along their Golden-crowned cousins, many Sparrows, Creepers, Paridae, Gnatcatchers and Nuthatches. A Black and White Warbler crawled around a sycamore and another sang rustily from a wooded slope. A Hermit Thrush hopped over the leaves beneath a large gathering of Purple Finches, feeding on the fresh buds. Two Water-thrushes teetered along the margin of a wooded pool, where Phoebe sallied forth for insects.

Magnificent looks at a Full-plumaged Common Loon were enjoyed as it floated complacently near Seneca Creek. Its checkered back, white collar and dark head glistened like the water around it. Three beautiful Horned Grebes, with salmon head-buffs highlighting their fresh spring plumage, glided along the water near it, a few pied-billods were there, too, along with a company of Buffle-heads. Seneca marsh yielded three gorgeous shovellers, resplendent in their rich blacks, whites and oranges, against dark, but clean waters, which were also graced by the lovely little Blue-winged Teal. Baldpates weren't shy, and likewise for a pair of Black Ducks, and many indescribably beautiful Wood Ducks, denizens of the still water beneath the drowned shrubbery. A flotilla of Coots pumped their heads in unison.

A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks somersaulted high over the Virginia shore and several Red-tails soared over the Maryland countryside. A Barred Owl flapped up the abandoned, grown-up canal, perched in a vine-tangled grove and regarded us with big brown eyes. Sparrow Hawks and Marsh Hawks were well seen near Poolesville, where two neat shrikes were observed.

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

20. U.S. SOLDIERS' HOME GROUNDS, D.C.

April 22, 1950 - (31 species)

A WALK amidst the fresh greenery of the spring woods produced good looks at several interesting species. A pair of Broad-winged Hawks circled the their old haunts again after winter sojourn in the south, and their shrill notes resounded in tones familiar and welcome. Several superb views of the hawks were enjoyed as they coursed overhead, mounted in lofty circles and dashed back and forth through the tree-tops. A Hairy Woodpecker and a few Starlings called annoyingly at the big birds, but Titmice and a Hermit Thrush didn't even notice the hawks. Myrtle Warblers were active and in song as were the Flickers and Meadowlarks in the open spaces. Two Quail flopped into cover. A bevy of ~~Flickers and Meadowlarks~~ Vesper Sparrows with a few Chippys were present in the field by the golf course. Red-wings were noted by the ponds, as were Cardinals, Mockingbirds and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. A silent Brown Creeper was watched as it worked alone, but a nearby Nuthatch was loud in his praise of the spring.

21. KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS, D.C.

April 23, 1950 - (35 species)

THE CLOUDS were tinted with rosy dawn early this morning at the Aquatic Gardens, but the sky darkened and rain soon fell. Myrtle Warblers and Carolina Wrens were inspired to song by the warm spring morn, and a Kingfisher rattled over the ponds. Several Yellow Palm Warblers flitted about the freshly bedecked shrubbery by the water and a group of Rusty Blackbirds, scrunching not unmusically, perched in plain view overlooking the pools. Good looks at both males and females were afforded. Swallows, Barn and Rough-winged, skittered over the ponds and a few Gnatcatchers called querulously from the brush, where Red-wings gurgled. A Wilson's Snipe dashed high over the area, and Ring-billed Gulls coursed over, too. A group of confiding little Blue-winged Teal were well-observed as they swam about a lily-pond and rested on the grassy banks. A Greater Yellow-legs was present near the Teal and also was well seen. A Brown Thrasher sang from a lofty Oak and a Field Sparrow trilled from the nearby gardens. A Pied-billed Grebe pattered over the water in hasty retreat and 2 Great Blue Herons flapped slowly up the Anacostia. Chimney Swifts peppered the sky, twittering merrily, and Flickers rolled and rollicked in groups of twos and threes. Juncos and White-throats were also singing. A Green Heron flapped up from the marge of ~~a~~ Garden pond, climaxing a productive little jaunt.

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

22. U.S. SOLDIERS HOME GROUNDS -(SE PORTION)

May 7, 1950 - (48 species)

The green spring woods of Soldier's Home were alive with song and color and 48 species were seen in less than an hour. Little warblers buzzed and trilled from every tree and bush, and Vireos, Tanagers and Flycatchers added their notes to the medley.

A Hooded Warbler sang consistently, as it flaunted its clear yellow and jet black uniform about the fresh branches of the undergrowth and Parula Warblers buzzed incessantly from the tops of the budding greenness. An Olive-backed Thrush hopped to a stump a few feet above the ground and eyed me curiously. The flute-like bars of Wood Thrush music rang out from several sides, but the heat of mid-day subdued the symphonic strains that filled the woods at dawn and dusk. The loud whelps of a Crested Flycatcher announced its arrival from the south, but its smaller Wood Pewee cousin heralded its advent with quiet, unobtrusive whistling. The soft brown wings of Thrushes - mostly Wood, but with a few Olive-backs and Gray-cheeks - whisked away into the dark wooded shadows by the path at regular intervals. A Scarlet Tanager dropped to the tip-most end of an elm branch, setting it afire with fiery tropical brilliance. Its olive-green mate sat near it. Red-eyed Vireos called tirelessly, their sweet phrasing coming from the tree-tops. Black and white and Black-poll Warblers were in song and flitted and crept about insects. A clean-cut little Black-throated Blue Warbler fluttered about, stopping often to lift its head and give its soft, dreamy notes. Ovenbirds were everywhere, walking daintily over the leaves and singing from saplings. A yellow-crowned Chestnut-sided Warbler chased a moth that was also sought by a Redstart, sporting its shining reds and blacks. A Yellow-throat dashed within the cover of a laurel bush, near a Towhee that was scratching industriously among the leaves.

A Killdeer, disturbed from its haunts in the open fields, flew high over the woods, and a Sparrow Hawk screamed shrilly as it dashed from a dead oak-stub. Catbirds squeaked and Carolina Wrens chattered and a Red-headed Woodpecker called querulously from an oak grove.

23. NORTH PORTION, ROCK CREEK PARK (A.M.); C. AND O. CANAL TOWPATH (PM)

May 8, 1950 (62 species)

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(Continued)

The shaded path through the sylvan greenness led into a fairyland, a dream world of flitting warblers, flashing Tanagers and fluting Thrushes, all amidst the serene majesty of the fresh spring foliage. The sweet gurgling of Catbirds mingled with the voices of Warblers, Tanagers, Vireos and Finches. The crown of a tulip-poplar was heavy with Purple Finches busily eating the swelling buds and warbling melodiously.

A Scarlet Tanager, feeding sedately amidst the green boughs of a pine and backdropped by a turquoise sky, offered a strikingly beautiful picture. Its sombre-hued mate joined it, and farther along the wooded path several more Tanagers, brilliant, fiery red, were well observed.

Both Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos gave forth their well-phrased measures and good studies of Red-eyes were enjoyed low among the second growth. The whimsical notes of a White-eyed Vireo sounded from a tangle by a little brook, where a Yellow-throat cavorted among the weeds. The song of the Kentucky Warbler, untamed and unrestrained, the true spirit of the wild, rang out from behind a fern-adorned rock, where the black-mantled little bird was hunting for insects. Ovenbirds walked over the carpet of leaves, stopping often to sing. Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warblers allowed excellent views as they fluttered about the fresh sprays of oak and maple. A Canada warbler sported its black necklace in a sassafras sapling. Redstarts were singing from several sides and the lazy notes of a Black-throated Blue Warbler drifted from the leafy canopy.

Many Thrushes drifted into the shady woods by the path. Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and a clear-breasted Veery were present but the rusty red Wood Thrushes outnumbered them by far. Flickers and Downy Woodpeckers were conspicuously noisy and a lovely azure backed Bluebird flew into a dogwood tree in a grassy clearing.

Birds and bird music were everywhere along the Canal Towpath from Sycamore Island to Cabin John Island in the afternoon. Black-polls, Myrtles, Parulas and Redstarts all were singing by the Sycamore Bridge, as were Vireos and Thrushes. A Black-throated Green Warbler balanced overhanging the water, and views of Magnolia and Canada Warblers were enjoyed along the river.

A constant bubbling din like that of a fountain or waterfall came from myriads of Goldfinches and Purple Finches that filled the tall trees by the canal. Breath-takingly beautiful studies of the Scarlet Tanager were enjoyed near Cabin John Island, where a Baltimore Oriole, clinging to an elm spray over the canal, gave forth its rollicking carol. A superb close-up of the tiger-like Cape May Warbler was also obtained alongside the towpath and a Wood Ducks shrill cry sounded upstream but the birds could not be seen.

24. NATIONAL ARBORETUM, KENILWORTH AREA

May 13, 1950-(80 species)

Dawn came grey and sullen to Mt. Hamilton, but the birdsong that filled the verdant hillside routed away the clouds and the sun shined throughout the morning.

A Red-headed Woodpecker called as it hitched up an oak stub, and the fluted melody of a dozen Wood Thrushes sounded from all sides. Myrtle Warblers trilled and Parulas buzzed from the tree-tops and

FIELD TRIPS-1950(Continued)

and little birds flitted everywhere. Vireos sang persistently and Hooded Warblers burst forth occasionally as they gleaned the shrubbery and saplings for insects. A Black-and-white Warbler paused long enough to give its thin little ditty and Magnolia Warblers darted across the path leading up the hill. A trim Black-throated Blue Warbler fed on a chestnut oak sapling, near a yellow-crowned Chestnut-sided Warbler. Redstarts flashed in the open spaces and one fiery mite dropped to the ground near an Ovenbird and hopped around among the leaves for a bit.

A Crested Flycatcher called loudly and several Thrushes slid away into the shadows. Nuthatches, Ovenbirds and Titmice were also singing.

An Indigo Bunting mounted a flowering dogwood and bubbled forth in competition with two others in the lower open areas. Cardinals, Var. Wrens joined a caroling Meadowlark and Phoebe near Heart Pond. Several Indigo Buntings with a group of sprightly Goldfinches flew up from a roadside puddle and Kingbirds pursued each other over the fields. A pair of neatly-tailored Bluebirds perched together in a berry bush, near a singing Catbird. Brown Thrashers and White-throated Sparrows were singing there, too, as were Field Sparrows and Yellow-throats.

A pair of Scarlet Tanagers flew into an oak by Holly Spring, where a Yellow-throated Vireo was singing. Wood Pewees and another Crested Flycatcher were seen and here, too, were more Ovenbirds and Redstarts, Thrushes and Warblers. Chipping Sparrows trilled by the spring, too, along with Towhees.

A perfect view of a Chestnut-sided Warbler was enjoyed in a Sycamore by the Anacostia, and a White-eyed Vireo complained from a riverside tangle. Also on the slope by the river were the silvery voiced Wood Thrushes and the Redstarts, Vireos and Yellow Warblers. A spectacled Kentucky Warbler sang loudly from a log it was probing for insects and a red and black Redstart fluttered down next to him and they both went for the same spider, suspended from the Arboretum fence.

Black-crowned Night Herons, plump and grotesque, stood on the seawall or perched on floating logs, and two Great Blue Herons coursed slowly upstream, over the marshes above the railroad bridge. A Green Heron flew up from a grassy pool beside the grassy sea-wall. Spotted Sandpipers were running along the sea wall and the bare banks adjacent to it, near a marshy spot on the river that yielded four gangling Solitary Sandpipers and a pair of Lesser Yellow-legs, bobbing like drunken corks. The Solitaries skittered over the river, calling plaintively, and settled on the opposite shore, but the Yellow-legs arched over the water to a marsh fringed isle. Another Yellow-legs was feeding on the grassy flats on the other shore.

Barn Swallows darted over the river and a group of Ring-billed Gulls were on the marshy island far down the river by the power plant. Several Turkey Vultures sailed over the area, and both Common and Fish Crows flew back and forth. Red-wings hovered over the cat-tails and Grackles flew over.

A Pied-billed Grebe plied through the filth-infested waters of the inland lake, the shores of which were washed with the putrescent bodies of catfish and carp, killed by pollution. Two Kingfishers flew over the water headed for the aquatic gardens.

FIELD TRIPS-1950(Continued)

A Black-poll Warbler was closely watched as it fed among maple boughs, stopping to sing at regular intervals. The caroling whistle of a Baltimore Oriole betrayed its vivid black and orange on a spray hanging over the path. A Wilson's Warbler, black-capped and yellow, was also spotted near the Gardens, as was a Louisiana Water-thrush teetering by a rain pool in a wooded grove. Two Acadian Flycatchers were observed near the Gardens, as was another brilliant-hued Scarlet Tanager.

FIELD TRIPS - 1950 - (cont.)

25. ROACHES RUN, LEBANON SANCTUARY, VIRGINIA

July 29, 1950 - (55 species)

The luxuriant cat-tail marshes of Four Mile Run might well have been Florida mangroves or southern cypress swamps, such was the show put on by a large group of American Egrets. The birds floated in easy majestic flight across the water, stabbing fish while they were in flight, like giant swallows. Maneuvering magnificently, they stabbed their yellow beaks and serpentine necks into the water as they hovered momentarily. High tide had covered completely the birds' regular feeding flats, which doubtless accounts for this unorthodox method of feeding. Twenty of the big white birds stood in a row by the cat-tails, alongside a few Great Blue Herons. Red-wings and Marsh Wrens called from the marsh and a kingfisher dipped over the water.

Earlier, at Roaches Run, a Green Heron was noted with a family group of six Black-cr. Night Herons. Later, at Dyke, Marsh Wrens, Redstarts, Scarlet Tanagers, Parula Warblers and Pewees were noted. Also present at Dyke was a moulting Wood Duck.

At Lebanon Sanctuary, the most interesting species observed on a rather dull walk were Kentucky Warblers, Gnatcatchers, Acadian Flycatchers, Hummingbirds and another Wood Duck. Egrets and Great Blue Herons were present at Gunston Cove.

HT

26. SANDY POINT, MARYLAND

August 5, 1950 - (63 species)

The countryside was as green and fresh as early spring on the road to Sandy Point this morning. Doves were perched on telephone wires, Buntings sang from roadside shrubbery and Grasshopper Sparrows called from the stubble fields. Martins and swallows coursed the fields and a cuckoo crossed the road to another patch of woodland.

Laughing Gulls flew low over the fields as we walked from Log Inn to Sandy Point. A Spotted Sandpiper flew up from a small cove, but the large grassy slough beyond the pine-clad point was more productive. Well-studied with the scope were Pectoral Sandpipers, Least and Semi Sandpipers as they probed about or trotted around among the marshy pools of the slough. The melodious notes of Yellow-legs revealed the presence of 3 Lessers coming in overhead, but soon a few Greater were noted in the pond in company with a lone

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

Solitary Sandpiper. Several spotties were present here, too, as was a group of 18 Black Ducks. The scope afforded good looks at all species. Only Herons present were 4 Greens and 2 Great Blues.

On the sandy edge of the beach a little company of Semi Plovers trotted in and out of the quietly breaking waves, or darted out over the bay in quick, erratic flight. A large pale Sanderling fed with the Plover. Two Forster's Terns passed just offshore and a Ring-billed Gull crossed overhead. Swallows, Barn and Bank, skimmed over the marsh and water and Red-wings flushed complainingly from the grass clumps. An Osprey passed low overhead with a writhing eel in its talons and swung to a perch on stub overhanging the bay.

27. KENILWORTH AREA, SOLDIER'S HOME GROUNDS

August 13, 1950 - (60 species)

Exceptionally fine looks at herons highlighted the walk out the Kenilworth peninsula. Several American Egrets coursed slowly upriver - their whiteness standing out against the chalky blue sky, and later more were watched through the scope as they perched atop willows or waded solemnly in the shadows. Great Blues and Night Herons were much in evidence also and good views of each were enjoyed both on the main river and in the lakes. A Green Heron was noted at the aquatic gardens and a single Little Blue passed over the central lake.

A pair of Blue-winged Teal flashed overhead twice and Red-shoulders called from the railroad bottomlands.

At Soldier's Home, a nice view of a Red-headed Woodpecker and good views of Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers in a drained pond were outstanding.

28. PENNYFIELD, SENECA, MARYLAND

August 19, 1950 - (64 species)

A lone Little Blue Heron ^{that} stalked the quiet shores of the Potomac near Pennyfield gave little evidence of the excellent birding which was to come. More Little Blues, and several fine immaculate-white Egrets were well-observed as they cavorted about reed-beds and rocky islets in the Potomac, and Great Blues, Green and Night Herons were watched in the marshy pools of the Dierssen Refuge.

Ospreys called shrilly and Wood Ducks shrieked as they were

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(cont.)

from the Refuge waters. At least two dozen Wood Ducks were noted, but the presence of a Green-winged Teal in company with two Gadwalls overshadowed them. The birds were well observed both in flight and at rest in the marshy portions of the pond, and the record constitutes the earliest ever for both species. From whence they came or how long they will stay is unknown, but it was a real thrill to watch the white-spectrumed Gadwalls, with contrasting white bellies, and the speedy little teal, despite its a somewhat marred eclipse plumage still a lovely creature, flying over the August landscape and past summery foliage over summer waters.

Landbirds were surprisingly numerous and varied, too. Chestnut-sideds and Canadas were migrants noted and Prothonotaries, Hoodeds and Redstarts were nice additions to the list. Rough-winged and Barn Swallows were plentiful over the river. Gnatcatchers and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were interesting, too.

29. THOMAS POINT, SANDY POINT, MARYLAND

September 2, 1950 -(65 species)

The waters and shores of South River at Thomas Point produced exceptionally interesting species. A group of Ruddy Ducks floated lazily about in the blue waters and a female American Merganser swam beyond a sandy bar. Great Blue Herons and Egrets were watched through the telescope, and they looked particularly beautiful with a background of deep green water and the lighter colors of the marsh grass and shrubbery. An Osprey was handsome, too, perched on a naked limb by the water's edge. A Semi Sandpiper stood on one leg, watching the water and sand before him without a motion. He might have been there yet if we had not disturbed it and sent it skittered off towards the Bay.

At Sandy Point an Eagle and a Cooper's Hawk were seen under excellent conditions and the latter was watched as it swooped low over a flock of "peep." Snowy Egrets were present at the Sandy Point slough, too, but a strange-looking Louisiana Heron was even more interesting and unusual, if not quite so lovely.

FIELD TRIPS-1950-(continued)

30. WICOMICO RIVER, POTOMAC PENINSULA

December 21 - (56 species)

Ice-whitened by a recent snow-contrasted sharply with the clear blue waters it bordered at chapel Point, which offered a lovely scene indeed early this morning. The blue waters, the snowy ice and the trees on the distant shore-line formed a perfect setting for the waterfowl, which were present only in limited numbers at chapel Point.

American Mergansers, sporting whites and blacks, left hastily, but

FIELD TRIPS - 1950 - (continued)

December 22, 1951 - Henikworth Area

30 Species

a Kingfisher at the Aquatic Gardens started things off on a nice afternoon walk. Landbirds were especially active and common in the woods and brush areas along the river, and nice looks at Chickadees, Titmice and Nuthatches were enjoyed. Cardinals and Jays were colorful and common, and Flickers and a Red-bellied Woodpecker were closely watched. A little Sharp-shinned Hawk disappeared fast over a knoll, and a Red-tail sailed high over the railroad tracks. Several Great Blues were present, too, as was a pair of Black Ducks.

#1

Chesapeake Bay Area - Deale to Thomas Pt.

54 Species - December 24, 1951

a bevy of landbirds at Deale included a Myrtle Warbler, Paridae, Red-bellies and Flickers. Also lots of White-throats. Scoters were out in bay, mostly White-wing, with a few Americans. A large raft of ducks was too far out for identification, but many Scaup, Redhead and Canvasbacks were close enough, as were Golden-eyes, Buffleheads. Lots of Horned Grebes in Deale Inlet and Bay. Scaup, too.

at Halesville, Ruddies, old-squaws, Black Ducks and more Horned Grebes were watched.

on South River, across from Thomas Point, a Red-throated Loon was scoped, as were Golden-eyes and Buffleheads.

at South River bridge, Mallards and Black Ducks were closely seen, with 5 Pied-billed Grebes.

Swans, Baldpates - feeding in shallows at Thomas Point. Beautiful scene - clear, warm afternoon, ducks & swans feeding, calling as they tipped in shallow water offshore.

Sharp-shin & Cooper's Hawk in flight. Red-tail also well seen.

FIELD TRIPS - 1948

<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>No. Species</u>
January 4-	Kenilworth, Tidal Basin, Roaches Run	35
January 18-	Wakefield, Va. and Environs	42
January 31-	Shearer Estate, Langdon Woods	18
February 21-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth	34
February 23-	Potomac River to Mt. Vernon	25
February 28-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth Area	39
March 6-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth Area	36
March 13-	Anacostia, Kenilworth Area	30
March 20-	Kenilworth, Anacostia Area	39
March 28-	Thomas Point and Beverly Beach, Md.	47
March 29-	Anacostia River near Kenilworth	31
April 3-	Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge, Del.	60
April 10-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth Area	45
April 18-	Shearer Estate, Langdon Woods	24
April 24-	Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, Md.	61
May 2-	Shearer Estate and Langdon Woods	32
May 6-	Shearer Estate	30
May 8-	Seneca, Md. and Environs	76 *
May 9-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth Area	67
May 15-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth Area	73
June 11-	Sandy Point, Md. and Environs	61
June 12-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth Area	56
June 25-	Franciscan Monastery Grounds	22
July 3-	Shenandoah Valley, near Front Royal, Va.	55
July 4-	Shenandoah Valley, near Front Royal, Va.	55
July 5-	Shenandoah Valley, near Front Royal, Va.	50
August 7-	Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, Md.	44
August 8-	Sandy Point, Md. and Environs	54
August 14-	Kenilworth, National Arboretum	57
August 15-	Shearer Estate, Langdon Woods	26
August 21-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth	56
August 28-	Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and Environs	27
August 29-	Sandy Point, Md. and Environs	50
September 4-	Shenandoah Valley, near Front Royal, Va.	41
September 5-	Shenandoah Valley, near Front Royal, Va.	26
September 11-	National Arboretum, Anacostia Area	51
September 12-	Shearer Estate, Langdon, Kenilworth	19

FIELD TRIPS-1948- (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>No. Species</u>
September 18-	Shearer Estate, Langdon Woods	24
September 25-	Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge	36
September 26-	Kenilworth, Anacostia Area	31
September 27-	Shearer Estate, Langdon Woods	22
October 2-	Potomac River to Mt. Vernon	36
October 9-	Shearer Estate, Langdon Woods	25
October 12-	Shearer Estate, Langdon Woods	24
October 16-	Shearer Estate, Langdon Woods	18
October 17-	Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens	23
October 23-	Shearer Estate, Langdon Woods	17
October 24-	Kenilworth, Roaches Run, Nat. Airport	48
October 30-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth	49
November 11-	Upper Reaches, Chesapeake Bay	60
November 21-	Shearer Estate, Beverly Beach, Md.	25
December 11-	Anacostia, Kenilworth Area	19
December 12-	Chesapeake Bay Area from ^{Fairhaven} West River	44
December 18-	Nat. Arboretum, Kenilworth, Potomac	41
December 26-	Sassafras and Bohemia River, Md.	67
December 27-	Sinepuxent Bay, inland near Berlin, Md.	70
December 28-	Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, Environs	52
December 31-	Eastern Bay, Miles River, Md.	50

58 Trips - HIGH May 8, Seneca (76)

FIELD TRIPS-1947

<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>No. Species</u>
January 4	National Arboretum-Kenilworth.....	37
January 11	Tidal Basin, Hains Point, Roaches Run	21
January 18	Wakefield, Va. and Environs.....	57
January 25	Soldier's Home Grounds.....	23
February 1	Nat. Arboretum-Kenilworth Area.....	36
February 15	Hains Pt., Roaches Run, Falls Church.	37
March 1	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath.....	18
March 8	National Arboretum.....	25
March 15	Kenilworth Gardens and Environs.....	45
March 16	National Arboretum, Kenilworth Area	40
March 17	Nat. Arboretum-Kenilworth Area.....	44
March 22	Blackwater Refuge and Elliott Id, Md.	65
March 28	Anacostia River (Adjacent to Arboretum)	36
March 29	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath...	33
March 30	Anacostia River (Adjacent to N.A.).....	49
April 5	Shearer Estate and Langdon Woods.....	32
April 6	Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.....	23
April 12	Kenilworth Area.....	39
April 13	Soldier's Home Grounds.....	46
April 19	Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge.....	58
April 20	Shearer Estate and Langdon Woods.....	36
April 26	Seneca, Md. and Environs.....	66
May 2	Langdon Woods.....	27
May 3	Ft. Totten, Soldier's Home, Ft. Foot, Md.	54
May 4	Shearer Estate and Langdon Woods.....	32
May 10	Soldier's Home Grounds.....	59
May 11	Shearer Estate and Langdon Woods.....	26
May 12	Langdon Woods.....	22
May 14	Shearer Estate and Langdon Woods.....	30
May 15	Cabin John Island, Md.....	48
May 17	Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, Md.	83 *
May 24	Chesapeake Beach, Md. and Environs.....	56
May 31	Cabin John Island, Md.....	34
June 14	Near Riverton, Va.....	55
June 15	National Arboretum.....	45

73 WACK

FIELD TRIPS-1947-(continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>No. Sp.</u>
July 4-	Shenandoah Valley - near Riverton...	54
July 5-	Shenandoah Valley - near Riverton...	56
July 19-	Shearer Estate.....	28
July 26-	Kenilworth, National Arboretum....	58
August 2-	Shearer Estate.....	28
August 4-	Kenilworth Area.....	52
August 6-	U.S. Soldiers Home Grounds.....	41
August 9-	Kenilworth, Arboretum, S. Home.....	59
August 12-	Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge..	46
August 14-	Sandy Point, Md. and Environs...	65
August 30-	Sandy Point, Md. and Environs...	60
September 1-	Kenilworth, Arboretum, Sandy Pt.	73
September 4-	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.....	40
September 13-	Shearer Estate, Sandy Pt, Md..	46
September 18-	Shearer Estate, Langdon.....	20
September 20-	National Arboretum.....	31
September 23-	Shearer Estate, Langdon.....	44
September 25-	Shearer Estate.....	30
September 26-	Kenilworth Area, Shearer Estate.	49
September 27-	Shearer Estate.....	25
October 4-	Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge.....	43
October 5-	Shearer Estate.....	28
October 8-	Shearer Estate.....	24
October 9-	Shearer Estate.....	30
October 11-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth.....	53
October 18-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth.....	40
October 20-	Shearer Estate.....	22
October 25-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth.....	37
November 1-	Soldier's Home, Roaches Run Sanct....	40
November 9-	Shenandoah Valley - Near Riverton Va.	20
November 11-	Seneca, Maryland.....	26
November 16-	Shearer Estate, Roaches Run...	28
November 26-	Kenilworth-Anacostia Area.....	38
December 7-	U.S. Soldier's Home Grounds.....	21
December 13-	Chesapeake Beach, Md.....	30
December 14-	Kenilworth Gardens and Environs..	30
December 20-	Kenilworth, Ft. Dupont, Ft. Foote	47
December 30-	Anacostia, Kenilworth Area	27

MAX 17
83 HIGH

FIELD TRIPS-1949

<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>No. Species</u>
January 2-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth, Ft. Dupont	42
January 15-	Kenilworth, Potomac Area	30
January 16-	Port Tobacco, Chapel Point, Md.	27
January 20-	Anacostia, Kenilworth	23
January 22-	Anacostia near Kenilworth	24
January 30-	Potomac to Gunston Cove	43
February 5-	Solomon Island, Cove Point, Md.	43
February 6-	Kenilworth, Anacostia Area	31
February 19-	Kent Narrows, Choptank River, Blackwater	55
February 20-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth	28
February 26-	Arboretum, Kenilworth	23
March 5-	Kenilworth	27
March 12-	Great Falls, Maryland	37
March 13-	Kenilworth	27
March 19-	Thomas Point, Sandy Point, Maryland	60
March 26-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth	51
March 27-	Soldier's Home, Pennyfield, (Maryland)	53
April 10-	Soldier's Home Grounds	27
April 17-	Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge	51
April 23-	National Airport, Dyke, Va.	52
April 30-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth	55
May 7-	Kenilworth Area	61
May 14-	Kenilworth, Anacostia Area	51
May 27-	Kenilworth, Anacostia Area	57
May 29-	Shenandoah River near Riverton	70 *
June 10-	U.S. Soldier's Home Grounds	36
June 20-	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath	56
June 25-	Dyke, Va. and environs	43
August 20-	Kenilworth Gardens	39
September 4-	Shenandoah Valley near Riverton, Va.	32
September 8-	Sandy Point, Md. and Environs	47
September 9-	Sandy Point, Md. and Environs	51
September 10-	Sandy Point, Md. and Environs	25
September 17-	Shearer Estate, Langdon	23
September 18-	Monument Knob, South Mt., Md.	24
September 24-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth	39
September 25-	U.S. Soldier's Home	34

<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>No Species</u>
October 1-	Chesapeake and Ohio Towpath	37
October 8-	Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens	43
October 15-	Roaches Run, National Airport	30
October 16-	National Arboretum, Kenilworth	51
October 22-	Kenilworth, Arboretum	32
November 1-	Hains Pt., Roaches Run, Airport, Lebanon	38
November 5-	Kent Narrows, Md; Bombay Hook, Md	64
November 11-	Patuxent Wildlife Research Ref.	37
November 19-	Kenilworth, Arboretum	25
December 10-	Kenilworth, Anacostia Area	31
December 24-	Anacostia River	20
December 27-	Blackwater Refuge, Fishing Bay, Md.	63
December 28-	Troppe Creek, Berlin, Md.	52
December 31-	Kenilworth, Arboretum, Ft. Dupont	37
51 TRIPS - HIGH 70 - May 29		

FIELD TRIPS-1950

<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>No. species</u>
January 1	Potomac Estuary, Wicomico River, Md.	66
January 2	Upper Chesapeake Bay, Sassafraz River	50
January 7	Chapel Point to Cobb Island, Md.	44
Jan. 14	Wicomico River, Cobb Island, Md.	46
Jan. 21	Shearer Estate, D.C. + Roaches Run Sanct. Va.	23
Jan. 28	Chesapeake Bay - Shadyside to Thomas Pt.	45
Feb. 4	<u>National Arboretum</u>	23
Feb. 11	Wicomico River - Allen's Fresh, Mills Pt.	64
Feb. 18	Point Lookout to Wicomico River, Md.	59
Feb. 25	Chapel Pt., Wicomico River, Md.	56
March 4	South Point - St. Martin's - Ocean City	58
March 5	Ocean City, Salisbury, Cambridge, Md.	60
March 11	Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens	36
March 19	Roaches Run, N. Airport, Hunting Creek	30
March 25	Allen's Fresh, Wicomico River, Md.	57
March 26	Pennyfield to Seneca, Md.	63
April 6	Pennyfield to Seneca, Md.	51
April 7	Pennyfield to Seneca, Md.	61
April 15	Pennyfield Lock, Seneca, Md.	72
April 22	Soldiers Home Grounds	31
April 23	Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens	24
May 7	Soldiers Home Grounds	48
May 8	North pt. Rock Creek - C+O Towpath	63
May 13	National Arboretum, Kenilworth	80
July 29	Lebanon Sanctuary	55
Aug. 5	Sandy Point, Maryland	63
Aug. 13	Kenilworth Area, Soldiers Home	60
Aug. 18	Pennyfield to Seneca, Maryland	64
Sept. 2	Thomas Point, Sandy Point, Maryland	65
Sept. 3-9	Shenandoah River near Riverton, Va.	64
Dec. 21	Wicomico River, Potomac Peninsula	56
Dec. 23	Wicomico River, Potomac Peninsula	55
Dec. 27	Ocean City, St. Martin's River, Md.	54
Dec. 28	Fishing Bay, Honga River, (Blackwater)	57
Dec. 30	Arboretum (outside), Kenilworth	28
Dec. 31	Wicomico, Potomac Peninsula	63

FIELD TRIPS-1951

May 16	Patapsco State Park, Md.	60
June 8	Violet's Lock, Montgomery Co. Md.	62
June 9	Wicomico, (Charles Co.) Md.	80
June 11	Pennyfield, Seneca, Monocacy Valley	74
June 14	Soldier's Home Grounds	34
June 15	Patuxent Wildlife Refuge	63
June 23	Garrett Co. Md. Deep Creek, Swallow Falls	63
June 27	Hyattsville, Kenilworth, Dyke, Va.	56
July 4	Roaches Run, Dyke, Hunting Creek	60
July 14	Frederick Valley, Md.	45
July 22	Atlantic Coast- Bethany Beach to Rehobeth	50
Aug. 3 & 5	Wachapreague, Chincoteague, Va.	81
Aug. 11	Wicomico Peninsula, Charles Co. Md.	59
Sept. 1	C + O Canal and Dumbarton Oaks	21
Sept. 2	Shenandoah Nat. Park, S. Valley, Frederick Co. Md.	68
Sept. 5	South Mountain, Monument Knob, Md.	36
Sept. 6	Kenilworth, D.C.	27
Sept. 8	Savage River Area, Garrett Co, Md.	28
Sept. 11	South Mountain, Monument Knob, Md.	25
Dec. 22	Kenilworth Area	30
Dec. 24	Chesapeake Bay- Shadyside, Deale to Thomas Pt.	54
Dec. 27	Kent Island (Eastern Bay) Choptank, Blackwater	50
Dec. 28	Ocean City & Environs, Md; South Pt. Heiney's Pond	67
Dec. 30	Wicomico (Charles Co.) Christmas Census	63

1 day high 80 - June 9 - 24 trips

